

ABSTRACT

Different formats, whose defect management methods differ based on the presence or absence of a cartridge, are adopted for information storage media having the same physical characteristics.

An information processing apparatus is capable of mounting a storage medium having a data recording area. The data recording area includes a user area to which logical addresses are allocated in accordance with recording units. The information processing apparatus includes: a determination section for, based on physical characteristics of the mounted storage medium, determining which one of a first storage medium accommodated in a cartridge and a second storage medium not accommodated in a cartridge has been mounted; a processor for, based on a result of determination, giving an instruction that, when the second storage medium has been mounted, the data recording area be formed as the user area and a spare area, and giving an instruction that, when the first storage medium has been mounted, all area of

the data recording area be formed as the user area; and a recording section for, based on the instruction, forming the user area and/or the spare area in the data recording area of the mount storage medium. The spare area is to be used as a substitute if a defect exists in a recording unit of the user area.